

and farmers in other northern States. But, unfortunately, it doesn't solve the challenges agriculture producers in my State are facing this summer. Right now, almost every acre of land in South Dakota is experiencing drought conditions. A huge portion of the State is facing a severe drought. And some areas of the State have been classified as being in extreme drought. And ag producers in other States are facing similar conditions.

Hay is in short supply. Without adequate forage, some cattle producers are being forced to cut down their herds, which is devastating for producers who have spent years building their herds. Emergency haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program acres can help alleviate forage shortages for livestock producers during drought years.

South Dakota has nearly 1.4 million acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program—at least at one time that was the number. It is not that high anymore. I am a longtime champion of this program, which supports both the production, agriculture, and hunting industries in South Dakota.

The Conservation Reserve Program provides critical habitat for pheasants and other wildlife, which contributes significantly to our State's economy. Haying and grazing CRP acres can also provide a lifeline for South Dakota ag producers during droughts like the one that our State is currently facing.

Last month, I sent a letter to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack urging him to release additional Conservation Reserve Program acres to help South Dakota producers, many of whom are in desperate need. And while I am pleased USDA is currently allowing emergency grazing in many counties, emergency CRP haying is not allowed until after the primary nesting season ends on August 1, which is too late in a drought year.

Agriculture is a tough business, and our producers have had to endure a tremendous amount over the past few years from tough weather conditions, to the COVID pandemic. Cattle producers are also dealing with market volatility that has recently provided record-high profit margins for meatpackers, while producers struggle to stay in business.

I will continue pressing the administration and working with my colleagues to hold the big four meatpackers accountable to the producers and consumers who depend on them. The Department of Agriculture should do everything it can to help farmers and ranchers weather this drought. And I will keep doing everything I can to get relief to producers in my State and around the country.

I am grateful for the Department of Agriculture's decision on haying and grazing on prevented planting acres. And I will keep working to ensure that CRP and all USDA programs have the flexibility necessary to meet the needs of producers while also making sure we balance the wildlife and conservation needs of our State.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### FENTANYL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the countdown is on. Today marks the beginning of 100 days until the critical and lifesaving authority placing fentanyl-related substances in schedule I expires. In 100 days that expires.

Congress has extended this authority multiple times, most recently in May. However, when choosing how long to extend this authority, Congress shortchanged itself by providing only 5 months to contemplate how to permanently control fentanyl analogs. I pushed for a longer extension, even spearheading bipartisan legislation that would have extended this authority into the next year, but my colleagues on the other side of the aisle insisted that 5 months was sufficient to work with the administration to find a permanent solution scheduling fentanyl-related substances.

I had skepticism about this when the 5-month extension passed in May, and I have even more skepticism now. That is because we are only 100 days away from losing this essential authority and the administration still has not indicated how it intends to solve this problem. So Congress is operating in the dark.

The administration says that a legislative proposal will be sent to Congress as early as next month. But this proposal won't be a done deal once it arrives on Capitol Hill because, you know, Presidents propose, Congress disposes.

If it doesn't include measures to protect vulnerable communities, to prevent more drug overdose victims, and proactively deter and punish drug traffickers, then it won't be enough to solve the problems of a drug—fentanyl—killing several hundred thousand people.

I have been beating the drum on scheduling fentanyl analogs for a long period of time because it is a fight worth having. We simply can't afford to let these deadly substances go unscheduled.

What happens if we don't schedule fentanyl analogs in the next 100 days? Well, it is pretty obvious. Opioid-related deaths fueled by fentanyl analogs increased by 35 percent in my State of Iowa. What about the other 49 States? But 35 percent in Iowa last year. That happens to be in line with nationwide trends. So deaths will continue to rise if we don't buckle down and get onto this issue of scheduling fentanyl schedule I on a permanent basis.

Also, according to the Customs and Border Patrol, so far this year, enough

fentanyl and its analogs have been seized to kill the entire population of the United States not once, but 10 times over.

Some may view drug crimes as victimless. You need to tell that to the hundreds of thousands of families who have lost their brother, sister, parent, or child to fentanyl.

Tell that to Rob and Deb Courtney, the parents of Chad Courtney from North Liberty, IA. Chad died 5 years ago because of fentanyl. He used painkillers and then turned to abusing heroin. Rod and Deb tried to help their son through rehab and treatment. Then one day they received the call that they had been dreading. Their son died because a drug dealer laced heroin with a deadly fentanyl substance. Rod said that one of the last memories he has of his son was picking him up from treatment and Chad stating, "I just want to make a difference."

We owe it to Chad and the other 36,359 victims of fentanyl-related overdose deaths to make a difference now, and that means passing legislation that schedules fentanyl and its analogs permanently.

Congress can ensure that we put people over profits and communities over cartels by permanently scheduling fentanyl-related substances. I don't doubt that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle want to protect their constituents. Nobody wants more overdose deaths in their home States. So let's work together to put this issue to rest at last.

Starting today, the countdown is on. As I said in the beginning, 100 more days. I hope the administration and my Senate colleagues are ready to get to work on permanently scheduling fentanyl-related substances. I know that I am ready.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

#### NOMINATIONS OF TRACY STONE-MANNING AND DAVID CHIPMAN

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss two troubling nominations by President Biden for positions that have very real impacts on my State of Wyoming and the people who live there.

One of the simplest yet truest rules of governance is that personnel is policy. We have seen this rule play out over and over under President Biden.

During last year's election, the media created a narrative that a Biden Presidency would unite the country with bipartisanship. That has not happened. Many of the President's policies have been extreme appeals to the far left and decidedly hostile to our way of life in Wyoming and the West.

I believe much of this can be traced to the people with whom he has surrounded himself and to those he has appointed. That is why I am so concerned about two of the President's nominees that the Senate is considering.

First, there is Tracy Stone-Manning, President Biden's nominee to serve as